Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8677

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 14408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MASS, IN

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INFORAMTION

REF: STATE 240807

- 1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CONTAINED PARAS 4 -14 REFTEL WITH FOLLOWING EMENDATIONS:
- 2. PARA 5: IN SECOND SENTANCE, DELETE "HEAVY CENSORSHIP" AND SUBSTITUTE "GUIDELINES FOR PERMISSIBLE PUBLICATION AND INTERMITTENT PRECENSORSHIP"; IN SAME SENTANCE, SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING ON JUDICIARY: "INDICATIONS ARE THAT INDIA'S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WILL BE CIRCUMSCRIBEDIN THEKASES IT MAY ACCEPT AND ITS MANDATE FOR PROVIDING REDRESS BY WRIT OR INJUNCTION." DELETE LAST SENTANCE IN PARA.
- 3. PARA 8: LAST SENTENCE IN SECTION DEALING WITH ARTICLE 5, ADD AFTER "... IS AN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED PRACTICE" THE FOLLWOING CLAUSE: "BUT ALSO HAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO ACCUSATIONS OF OF TORTURE IN PARTICULAR CASES." IN SECTION DELAING WITH ARTICLE 8, ADD AFTER "... HAVE ACCESS TO THE COURTS", THE FOLLOWING CLAUSE: "OR, IN THE CASE OF GRIEVANCES FOR WORKERS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CIVIL SERVANTS RELATED TO THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT,

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS".

- 4. PARA 8: IN SECTION DEALING WITH ARTICLE 9, SUGGEST DROPPING ADJECTIVE "ALLEGED" BEFORE "ECONOMIC OFFENDERS" AND ADVERB "LOOSELY" BEFORE "TERMED 'BAD CHARACTERS'". IN NEXT SENTANCE, ADD THIRD CLAUSE, "AND THE ARRESTED INDIVIDUAL MAY BE HELD INDEFINITELY WITHOUT TRAIL WHILE THE EMERGENCY IS IN EFFECT."
- 5. PARA 11: SECOND SENTANCE, ADD "OR OFFICIALY ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES HAVE" AFTER OPENING WORD "CENSORSHIP" AND ADD "AND MAGAZINES" AFTER "NEWSPAPERS".
- 6. PARA 12: CHANGE TO READ: "THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL POILITICAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN RESTIRCTED SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED AND MEETINGS OF OPPOSITION GROUPS DURING THE EMERGENCY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO SURVEILLANCE, CONTROL AND RESTRAINT."
- 7. DEPT MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT GOI HAS DENIED PERMISSION FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO CHECK INTO TORTURE OR TO OBSERVE TRAILS SUCH AS THOSE OF ANANDA MARGIS IN INDIA.
- 8. EMBASSY'S INTENT IN ABOVE CHANGES HAS BEEN AS FAR AS IS FEASIBLE TO REDUCE INCIDENCE OF DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES AND POLITICAL ASSESSMENT AND LIMIT TEXT TO FACTUAL STATEMENTS. SAXBE

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